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Downtown News

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In the Spotlight

Booker T Theatre

Built around 1926 as the "Savoy Theatre," this two story brick structure was renamed "Booker T" in 1936. The classical figure in relief above the central arched window watched over generations of Rocky Mount citizens who came to watch the latest movie features in the heart of a thriving African-American business district on East Thomas Street. This wonderful historic property is the last surviving theater marquee in the Central City National Register Historic District.

Did You Know?

The Rocky Mount/Edgecombe Community Development Corporation (RMECDC) was incorporated in 1988 to spearhead the revitalization of deteriorating neighborhoods. Its mission is to provide progressive economic improvements in real estate development, business development, job creation, cultural development, and community education. Located in the beautifully-renovated Harambee Square complex on South Washington Street, the RMECDC is led by Joyce Dickens, president and CEO.

Citizens Meet to Share Visions for Downtown

Over 100 citizens met on January 24 at the Church of the Good Shepherd on Church Street to share their visions of what downtown Rocky Mount could become in the next five to ten years. Eleven groups of participants drafted statements of what their ideal downtown would be like. Groups also listed current strengths and weaknesses of downtown.

The Central City Revitalization Panel is processing the materials from the Downtown Vision Forum as they formulate a vision statement for Historic Downtown Rocky Mount. Strengths and weaknesses identified at the forum will form the basis for a Main Street Resource Team analysis of downtown in late July.



Rodney Swink and Meg Dees from the North Carolina Main Street Center work with Downtown Vision Forum Participants

Downtown Alliance To Meet April 12 at Edgecombe Community College-Rocky Mount Campus

The Downtown Alliance will meet on Friday, April 12 at 8:30 AM in the auditorium of Edgecombe Community College Rocky Mount Campus. The agenda includes follow up information on special events planned for the downtown area, a report from the City Police Department, and the latest news from the Downtown Development Office. The meeting is open to anyone interested in improving and promoting downtown Rocky Mount.

New Dining Options for Downtown

The Whistle-Stop, located in the Train Station, is now offering delicious box lunches. For information, contact 446-3785. **The All Aboard Restaurant** on Coastline Street is back in business under new management. For the latest menu selections, call 985-2851.



Bright Idea

for this issue:

The Central City Building Improvement Grant Program continues to provide matching funds for improvements to the exteriors of downtown buildings. Contact the Downtown Development Office at 972-1267 for information.



Preservation Week Features Salute to a Rocky Mount Main Street Hero on May 14

Joyce Dickens, CEO of Rocky Mount Edgecombe Community Development Corporation will receive the first Rocky Mount Main Street Heroes award at a special ceremony on Tuesday, May 14. A presentation ceremony is planned for 6 PM at the auditorium of Edgecombe Community College-Rocky Mount campus.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has proclaimed May 12 through 18, National Historic Preservation Week. This year's theme is "Preserving the Spirit of Place." Locally, Preservation Week activities are being planned by the Rocky Mount Historic Preservation Commission, Preservation Rocky Mount, and the Downtown Development Office. For details about special activities during Preservation Week, contact Rudolph Knight, Preservation Planner for the City of Rocky Mount at 972-1147.

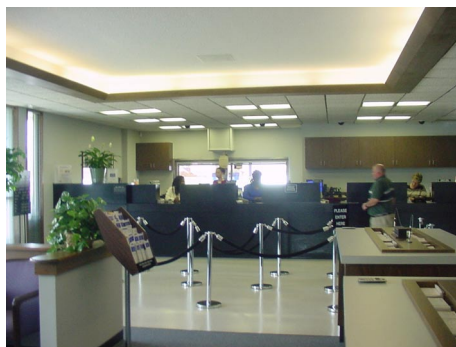
Spotlight on Downtown Economic Development

Welcome to State Employees Credit Union Branch Office Opens in Downtown Rocky Mount

Local government employees and other members of the State Employees Credit Union can now visit a convenient downtown location of the State Employees Credit Union. Office hours are 8:30 AM until 5:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Contact branch manager Conley R. Oates at 212-3310 for additional information. The web address for address for the Local Government Credit Union is <http://www.lgcu.org/index.html>.



SECU Branch features convenient parking at the corner of Grace and West Thomas Streets.



Full range of services available in downtown branch office of SECU.

Watch C.I.T.Y TV for the latest Downtown Revitalization News!

Opportunities for Investment in Downtown

120 Howard Street-
Excellent office space in the heart of downtown. Contact the Downtown Development Office for details.

140 NW Main Street-
Prime retail space in downtown. Contact Joe DiMitrino, DJM Asset Management at 877-449-1050 Ext. 227.

148 S Washington Street-
Top quality office space near ECC campus and heart of downtown. Contact RMECDC at 442-5178

The properties listed above are only a partial listing of investment opportunities in the central city area. This information is published solely to promote the public interest in revitalization of the central city as part of the overall economic improvement of the City of Rocky Mount. Neither the Downtown Development Office nor the City of Rocky Mount has any intent to act in any capacity as an agent for the sale or lease of these properties. For more information about a listing, or to add a property to the list, contact the Downtown Development office at 972-1267.